

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to continue the prosecution of claims that were not allowed in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/354,166 and to submit additional claims directed to similar subject matter.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application and that the claims receive favorable examination at the earliest possible date.

If any fees are required in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 1 (first full paragraph on page 3), as follows:

--In one aspect of the invention, software is provided which permits a computer program running on a remote host to control a compact [disk] disc (CD) player, DVD player, or the like on a user's computer. (For convenience, we use the term "CD player" to refer also to DVD players and similar devices.) The software is designed to permit the remote host both to initiate actions on the CD player and to become aware of actions which the user has initiated by other control means, such as the buttons on the CD player's front panel or a different CD player control program. This aspect of the invention is a building-block for the provision of complementary entertainment for musical recordings when those recordings are fixed in the prevailing contemporary form, the audio CD.--

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 4 (first full paragraph on page 7), as follows:

--The command plug-in is preferably written in a conventional programming language such as C++ . The [plug in] plug-in must conform to the existing standards for plug-ins, such as those required of Microsoft ActiveX objects. In order to obtain the information and carry out the functions which the command plug-in makes available to the scripting language, the command plug-in relies on functions which provide control and information regarding the playing musical recording. These functions will depend on the precise source of the recording. If, as in the currently preferred embodiment, the recording is being played on an audio CD in the computer CD player, and if the browser is running under Microsoft Windows 3.1 or Windows 95, these functions would be the MCI functions, which form a part of the Win32 application programming interface. These functions are documented, for example, in *Microsoft Win32 Programmer's Reference*. Different functions may be provided by streaming audio receivers, as for example receivers which capture audio which is coming into the user's computer over a network connection in a suitable audio encoding format such as MPEG.--

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 12 (second full paragraph at page 8), as follows:

--In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the synchronization of the visual content to the audio CD proceeds as follows. The visual content is provided by means of a Shockwave animation, which is downloaded from the server and displayed for the user by means of a Shockwave plug-in. This downloading may take place before the animation is displayed, or alternatively it [make] may take place as the animation is being displayed, provided the user's connection to the network is fast enough to support download at an appropriate speed. The downloading is a function provided by the Shockwave plug-in itself.--